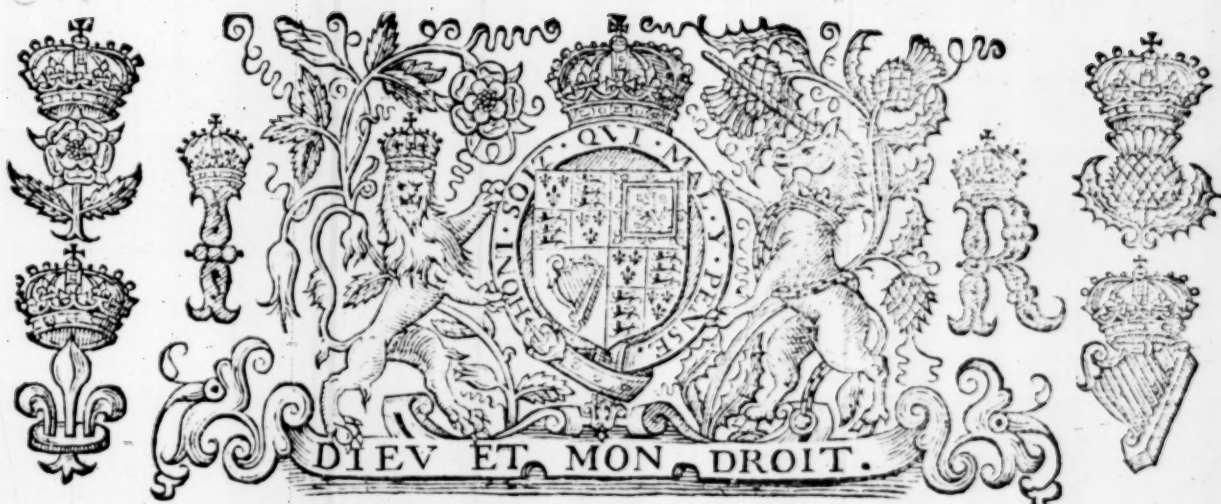




MAYES

By the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deans, and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and to all spiritual persons. And also to all Justices of Peace, Sheriffs, Escheviers, Bailiffs, Constables, Churchwardens and Headboroughes: And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects whatsoever they be, as well within Liberties, as without, to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

WE BE CRIDIBLY GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND, by a Certificate under the handes of our right trusty and welbelovyd Cousen William Carle of Salisbury, Henry Lopez, Hunston, Sir John Butler, Sir Thomas Po Blunt, and Sir Henry Goodere Knights, Justices of the Peace within our County of Hertford, That our poyse distressed Subjects George Ballard, John Bridgman, and Alice Hughes, Widdow of Bishops Hatfield in our foresaid County, are now fallen into great want and poverty by reason of a sodaine and fearefull fire hapning on the Tenth day of October last past, which in short time betwene eight and nine of the clocke in the night, consumed and burnt downe eightene bayes of Housing, in Barnes, Stables, and other houses, together with foure and twenty Loades of Hay, and also Wheate, Dates and Pease, with other goods and substance, and also five Poulsters Horses with their furniture and some of their loading, Amounting in the whole losse to the value of Two hundred and fifty poundes or thereabouts, to the bitter vndoing of our said poyse Subjects, who befoze this untimely accident lived well of themselves without any helpe from others, and gaue reliefe vnto the pover sozt, but they are not now able to helpe themselves having lost their onely meanes and substance, which should support and sustaine both themselves and their families, who though more want of things necessary are enforced to craue the Almes and charitable beneuolence of our louing & wel disposed people, not doubting but that all good Christians well weighing with themselves the sickle estate of man through these inenitable accidents, will be ready and willing as feeling members one of anothers miseries, to extend their contributions towards the reliefe and comfort of our said poyse Subjects in this their great necessity, none knowing how soone no; whose chance may next happen into the like Calamity.

IN AS MUCH therefore, That of Our especiall Grace and Princely Compassion, We haue giuen and granted, and by these our Letters Patents, doe giue and graunt vnto our said poyse Subjects George Ballard, John Bridgman, and Alice Hughes, and to their Deputy and Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, full power, licence, and Authority to aske, gather, receiue, and take the Almes and charitable beneuolence of all our louing Subjects whatsoever, Inhabiting within our Counties of Hertford, Bedford, Buckingham, Middlesex, Kent, Essex, and Cambridge, with our City of Westminster and the Liberties thereof, and in our Cities of Canterbury, Rochester, and the Cinque Portes, with our University of Cambridge, and Isle of Ely, And in all other Cities, Townes Corporate, Priuiledged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsoever within our said Counties and not else, for and towards the recovery of their said losses and the reliefe and maintenance of themselves and their families.

WE HEREFORRE will and Command you and euery of you, that at such time and times, as the said George Ballard, John Bridgman, and Alice Hughes, or their Deputy or Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, shall come and repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aske and receiue the gratuities and charitable beneuolence of our said Subjects, quietly to permit and suffer them so to doe, without any manner your lets or contradictions, And you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curates, for the better stirring by of a charitable deuotion, deliberately to publish and declare the Tenor of these our Letters Patents, vnto our said Subjects vpon some Saboth day, when as the same shall be tendered vnto you. Exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberall contributions in so good and charitable a deed. And you the Churchwardens of euery Parish, where such Collection is to be made (as aforesaid) to collect and gather the Almes and charitable beneuolence of all our louing Subjects, as well Strangers as others, and what shall be by you so gathered to deliuer it to the bearer or bearers of these our Letters Patents and to no other person, when as thereunto you shall be required. And lastly, whereas we are informed of the great abuse which is now crept in amongst these poyse people, who sell their Licences vnto some other person, whereby mens charity goeth not the right way, but vnto such as deserue it least: That from hencefoorth our will and pleasure is, that if it may appeare vnto you or any of you, that the said George Ballard, John Bridgman, and Alice Hughes, haue contracted any bargain, or made or shall make sale of these our Letters Patents, whereby the benefit should passe from them to any other person, That thereupon these our Letters Patents shall be void and of none effect. Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or Provision, heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

3 P. Witness whereof, We haue caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of one whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witness our selfe at Westminster, the Fourth day of December, in the Eighteenth yeare of our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland: And of Scotland the Foure and Fiftieth.

1620.

Steward.

God saue the King

Printed by Ioyce Wood, and Thomas Symonds.

Cum Priuilegio.